

**ANACONDA Aluminum Company**

First National Tower  
Louisville, Kentucky 40202  
Telephone 502 586 5710

Donald W. Everett  
Vice President  
Reduction Operations

APR 2 - 1981

R. RICHARD VAN HORNE



March 30, 1981

The Honorable Ted Schwinden  
Helena, Montana

Dear Governor Schwinden:

In response to your request for information relating to H.B. 642, to provide you with a basis for consideration of whether or not to veto the bill, we submit the attached memorandum and the following:

The Act as written and adopted will limit the fluoride in forage standard to fodder eaten by domestic animals. Since these "grasses, hay and silage" will be consumed or cut during the growing season we believe that we will be able to meet the proposed Board of Health standard of "35/50". However, if the Act is expanded to include other vegetation which is exposed to an accumulation of fluoride for an entire year, we have grave doubts about our ability to meet such standard.

As you know, it is the policy of Atlantic Richfield Company to operate its plants only in compliance with environmental laws.

You will recall that the United States sued Anaconda, alleging damage to the National Forest, National Park and their vegetation, as well as to the wild animals inhabiting those areas. They were unable to prove such damages. Indeed, although the fluoride emissions from the plant were much higher for the twenty-four years prior to the installation of the Sumitomo technology we did not witness any significant impact upon the ecology of the area.

Fluorides have not been demonstrated to have a harmful effect on the health of humans; therefore, before a welfare standard such as fluoride in forage is adopted serious consideration must be given to the cost/benefit relationship of any such action.

We believe Anaconda Aluminum Company has demonstrated its good faith in spending \$43 million to retrofit its Columbia Falls plant to meet the Montana fluoride emission standard and to now be faced with an unattainable standard would be grossly unfair to all concerned.

We respectfully request that you not veto this measure which has been thoroughly debated before enactment by the legislature and permit Anaconda Aluminum Company to continue in its cooperation with the Montana Department of Health in seeking environmental improvement.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "D. W. Everett".

D. W. Everett  
Vice President, Reduction Operations

Attachment